

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105076

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, US

SUBJ: OTTAWAY ARTICLE ON PASSPORTS

REF: TRIPOLI 732

OTTAWAY ARTICLE ON PASSPORT QUESTION AROSE OUT OF INTEREST IN SUBJECT RESULTING FROM HOAGLAND VISIT TO LIBYA. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AGREED RECEIVE OTTAWAY ON BACKGROUND BASIS TO EXPLAIN PASSPORT PROBLEM. GIST OF HIS COMMENTS TO OTTAWAY WERE THAT US WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY AND KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS BUT NOT TAKING LEAD IN ISSUE. HE POINTED OUT LACK OF RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE MADE NORMAL STAFFING OF EMBASSY DIFFICULT. EMPHASIS ON CONFRONTATION AND COMMENTS ON DIPLOMATIC TIES WERE OTTAWAY ADDITIONS.

DEPARTMENT BELIEVES STATEMENT TO OTTAWAY CONSISTENT WITH POLICIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ENUNCIATED BOTH IN TELEGRAMS AND IN MATERIAL POUCHED TO POST. WHILE APPRECIATING DESIRABILITY OF SHAPING PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON LIBYA, POST
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UNDOUBTEDLY APPRECIATES THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ARE
OF GREAT INTEREST TO PRESS CORPS AND WILL CONTINUE BE

SUBJECT BOTH FACTUAL AND SPECULATIVE ACCOUNTS.

COMMENTS TO OTTAWAY IN NO WAY INTENDED REFLECT ON

ACTIONS OF MISSION WHICH ARE SEEN HERE AS FULLY CONSISTENT
WITH POLICY AND AS PRESERVING US INTERESTS UNDER
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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